

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8641

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

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CINCUSAFE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, TU

SUBJ: OPPOSITION REACTION TO DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S
PROTOCOL

1. THE REACTION OF THE OPPOSITION TO THE DOMESTIC PORTION OF
THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S PROTOCOL HAS BEEN PREDICTABLY NEGATIVE.
THE THRUST OF MOST OF THIS COMMENT IS THAT THE PROTOCOL IS DE-
SIGNED FOR THE SHORT TERM POLITICAL BENEFIT OF DEMIREL AND DOES
NOT ATTEMPT TO RESOLVE BASIC PROBLEMS. THIS CRITICISM IS
FOCUSSED PARTICULARLY ON THE BREAD AND BUTTER ISSUE OF FERTILIZER
PRICES. THESE PRICES HAVE SOARED DURING THE LAST TWO YEARS
AND THE PROTOCOL PROMISES "TO CONSIDER URGENTLY THE POSSIBILITY
OF REDUCING FERTILIZER PRICES." REPUBLICA PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP)
SUPPORTERS POINT OUT THAT SUCH AN ACTION COULD BE FINANCED ONLY
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BY A MASSIVE BUDGET DEFICIT.

2. THE OPPOSITION ALSO ASSERTS THAT DEMIREL PLANS TO REDUCE THE STATE-CONTROLLED PRICES OF SOME BASIC FOODSTUFFS SUCH AS SUGAR AND RICE. THE CONTENTION IS THAT DEMIREL DOES NOT BELIEVE HE WILL BE ABLE TO HOLD HIS SHAKY COALITION TOGETHER VERY LONG (SOME RPP SOURCES TELL US THAT EVEN IF DEMIREL'S GOVERNMENT WINS ITS INITIAL VOTE OF CONFIDENCE, THEY STILL EXPECT AN OCTOBER ELECTION), AND THAT THE PROTOCOL IS THE BEGINNING OF HIS ELECTION CAMPAIGN.

3. COMMENT: THE RPP'S NEGATIVE REACTION IS UNDERSTANDABLE. WITH THE COALITION PROTOCOL DEMIREL HAS SIGNALLED HIS INTENTION OF TRYING TO STEAL SOME OF THE RPP'S THUNDER. THE PROTOCOL CALLS FOR REDUCTION OF THE VOTING AGE TO 18 (AN OLD RPP PROPOSAL) AND SUGGESTS SEVERAL IMPORTANT SOCIAL WELFARE REFORMS (NATIONAL HEALTH INSURANCE, AGRICULTURAL INSURANCE, OLD AGE PENSIONS, ETC.). THE PROTOCOL IS CLEARLY DESIGNED TO APPEAL PRIMARILY TO THE VOTER IN RURAL AREAS WHERE MOST TURKISH VOTERS STILL LIVE AND WHERE THE RPP MADE INROADS INTO THE TRADITIONAL JUSTICE PARTY STRONGHOLDS IN THE 1973 ELECTIONS.
MACOMBER

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